

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 05408 022048Z

11

ACTION EUR-10

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S E C R E T USNATO 5408

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, NATO, MARR

SUBJECT: GREECE AND NATO; WITHDRAWAL INITIATIVES

REF: USNATO 5310

SUMMARY: DPC IN UNSCHEDULED MEETING OCTOBER 2 DISCUSSED TWO APPARENT GREEK INITIATIVES, MADE THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS, TO SPEED UP NEGOTIATIONS RELATED TO GREEK WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO. SYG ASKED FOR AGREEMENT THAT HASTE IS NOT DESIRABLE, THAT GREEK INITIATIVES SHOULD NOT BE REBUFFED, AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED BY ALLIES UNDER DPC AEGIS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING ADJOURNMENT OF OCTOBER 2 NAC (REPORTED SEPTTEL) SYG LUNS UNEXPECTEDLY ASKED THIRTEEN DPC MEMBERS TO REMAIN FOR DISCUSSION ON GREECE. WITH DPC, INCLUDING ERALP (TURKEY), SYG PARAPHRASED AND COMMENTED ON A MESSAGE FROM CINCSOUTH TO SACEUR ABOUT WHICH SYG LEARNED DURING A MEETING WITH SACEUR AND CMC HILL-NORTON ON SEPTEMBER 27. ALTHOUGH LUNS DECLINED TO PROVIDE
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 05408 022048Z

DPC WITH TEXT OF THE MESSAGE, SUBSTANCE IS THAT CINCSOUTH (ADMIRAL MEANS JOHNSTON) HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM A SENIOR GREEK MILITARY OFFICER, THROUGH AN INTERMEDIARY, SUGGESTING DESIRABILITY OF SACEUR VISIT TO ATHENS TO DISCUSS VARIOUS

ASPECTS OF GREEK WITHDRAWAL. SCENARIO PRESUMABLY WOULD BEGIN WITH SACEUR INITIATIVE (WITHOUT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT) CONCERNING VISIT TO ATHENS, FOLLOWED BY PREPARATION OF AN OUTLINE OF SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION, FOLLOWED BY THE SACEUR VISIT ITSELF, FOLLOWED BY FILLING-IN OF DETAILS ON ASPECTS OF GREEK WITHDRAWAL. RECALLING BOTH GREECE'S RECENT REVERSAL ON DESIRABILITY OF CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS, AND PREVIOUS DPC AGREEMENT THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON SUBJECTS AFFECTED BY WITHDRAWAL SHOULD VEST IN COUNTRIES UNDER DPC AEGIS, LUNS ASKED FOR AGREEMENT ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) HASTE IN INITIATING NEGOTIATIONS IS NOT DESIRABLE.

B) NEGOTIATIONS IF AND WHEN CONDUCTED SHOULD BE IN BRUSSELS AND AT SHAPE, NOT ATHENS.

C) GREECE SHOULD HAVE TIME TO STUDY AND REACT TO THE INVENTORY GIVEN BY LUNS TO THE GREEK CHARGE ON SEPTEMBER 27 (REFTEL).

D) THE DPC SHOULD TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION UNTIL NEW GREEK PERMREP ARRIVES IN A FEW DAYS.

2. CMC HILL-NORTON THEN ADVISED MEMBERS THAT GREEK MILREP (KORKAS) HAD INFORMED HIM OCTOBER 1 (PRESUMABLE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS) THAT SOME SUBJECTS RELATING TO GREEK WITHDRAWAL COULD BE DISCUSSED IN A GENERAL WAY QUOTE SO THAT WE WOULD NOT LOSE FIVE WEEKS END QUOTE BEFORE GREEK ELECTIONS. CMC FURTHER REPORTED THAT SACEUR HAD STATED HE DID NOT INTEND ON ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH GREEKS WITHOUT A PRECISE STEER IN THE FORM OF POLITICAL GUIDANCE. FROM DPC.

3. BOTH SYG AND CMC PROFESSED NOT TO UNDERSTAND WHY GREECE WOULD USE SUCH A TORTUOUS ROUTE TO REGISTER GOG DESIRE FOR EARLY NEGOTIATIONS. CMC SUGGESTED, AND SYG AGREED, THAT WHOLE SEQUENCE COULD CONSTITUTE AN ATTEMPTED END-RUN BY GREEK DEFENSE MINISTER.

4. ITALIAN, FRG, CANADIAN AND US REPS RESPONDED TO LUNS' AND
SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 05408 022048Z

HILL-NORTON'S REMARKS. CATALANO (ITALY) AGREED WITH THE LUNS APPROACH, STRESSING THE DESIRABILITY OF PRAGMATISM IN DEALING WITH GREEK WITHDRAWAL ISSUE. LUNS AGREED, SAYING THAT HE WOULD SUGGEST SACEUR INFORM GREEKS (USING THE SAME ROUTE IN OPPOSITE DIRECTION) THAT A VISIT TO ATHENS WOULD BE TOO SPECTACULAR. KRAPF (FRG) WARNED THAT DPC MEMBER NATIONS SHOULD NOT REBUFF GREEK INITIATIVES, BUT SHOULD DEAL WITH THEM IN PROPER FORA. AGAIN LUNS AGREED, STATING DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING THE IMPRESSION OF GOING AROUND FONMIN MAVROS, BUT ALSO OF NOT REBUFFING OTHER GREEK OFFICIALS. MENZIES (CANADA) ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING; LUNS REPLIED THAT ALLIES HAVE BREATHING SPACE BECAUSE PAYMENTS MADE JUST PRIOR TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF GREEK WITHDRAWAL. MCAULIFFE (US) QUERIED CMC ON ORIGIN OF THE PHRASE DEALING WITH

LOSS OF FIVE WEEKS ATTRIBUTED TO GREEK MILREP. HILL-NORTON ASSURED
MCAULIFFE THAT PHRASE WAS THAT OF KORKAS. MCAULIFFE NOTED THE
UNUSUAL AND AWKARD FORM OF INITIATIVES TO BOTH SACEUR
AND CMC, AND REMARKED THAT, ASIDE FROM THE PHRASE DEALING WITH
FIVE WEEKS, GREEKS HAD NOT SAID VERY MUCH.
HE AGREED WITH DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING A REBUFF AT ANY LEVEL, BUT
POINTED OUT THAT BOTH THE GREEKS AND DPC MEMBERS ARE IN BRUSSELS,
THE PROPER PLACE TO DEAL WITH GREEK WITHDRAWAL. SYG AGREED.
MCAULIFFE

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